



KENNY C. GUINN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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R. MICHAEL TURNIPSEED, P.E.
Director

Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources

TERRY R. CRAWFORTH
Administrator

February 26, 2001

Jeff P. Koenings, Ph.D., Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

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WDFW
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Jeff:

Thank you for having George Tsukamoto travel to Reno to represent your state before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to request California bighorn sheep. He did a very professional job in outlining your request as well as explaining your bighorn sheep management program to our board.

As you are likely aware, the Commission opted to delay a decision pending the completion and approval of a species management plan for bighorn sheep, the same likely to occur during the summer of 2001.

Nevada has recently experienced challenges with some of its California bighorn populations in that one recent die-off has occurred, and several mountain ranges that have good populations of California bighorn have been designated as wilderness with the recent passage of the Black Rock National Conservation Area legislation by Congress late last session. It is too early to tell how the new designation will affect our ability to utilize those populations for source stock.

It is likely that Nevada will be able to provide Washington with 20-25 animals during the winter of 2002-2003 or 2003-2004 after a species management plan is approved and when we know more about the aforementioned wilderness designations. Washington is first on our list to receive animals as we have recently fulfilled obligations to Utah and Oregon.

Thank you for your request and we look forward to helping you with your bighorn management program.

Sincerely,


Terry Crawford
Administrator

TRC:gt